Summary of the Activities of the Newark Interracial Council in Endeavor to open Newark City and other hospitals to Negro Professionals. 1944-45?

N. J. DOCUMENTS
NEWARK LIBRARY

Somewhat more than ten years ago, when the Newark Interracial was a young organization, it became concerned about the discrimination against Negro professionals in the Newark City Hospital. A petition was circulated and a good many signatures obtained. There was enough publicity to stir up considerable opposition to such a "radical idea, and the matter was dropped for the time being.

In 1938 the matter was taken up again, this time through the medium of interviews with the head of the Newark City Hospital and the medical staff. These interviews invariably brought forth assertions that the placing of a Negro in any professional capacity in the Hospital or Nurses Home would result in the disruption of the entire staff, and dissatisfaction among the patients.

In 1939 an effort was made to reach the individual members of the Medical Board (heads of departments, some of whom knew nothing of the various interviews). A questionaire was sent by mail to each physician to obtain his opinion and personal reaction to our objective. The return of one of the questionaires blank, and unsigned, and one vague reply were the only response.

Later, in June 1939, a follow-up letter was sent to these same physicians with added data as to the success in other cities where White and Black were working together. A reply was again requested. There were no replies.

In October 1939 a third letter was sent, with a further summary of successful mixing of staffs in hospitals throughout the U.S. At the same time a request was mailed to the head of the hospital for permission for a committee from the Council to meet with the City Hospital Staff. A similar request was made thru the Chairman of the Hospital Committee of the Essex County Medical Society to meet with that Committee. There were no replies.

In February 1940 another letter was mailed by the Council, summarizing previous correspondence, and suggesting that if the matter could not be taken up quietly, perhaps open publicity was in order. This resulted in interviews being granted, tho in each case with the group present limited to the executive committee of the larger committee.

On March 14th, a committee from the Council met with the Executive Committee of the Hospital Committee of the Essex County Medical Society. As a result the Council was asked to present to the Chairman of the Hospital Committee a written resolution or request to be presented to the entire Hospital Committee, and thru it to the entire Essex County Medical Society. This was done.

On March 21, there was a similar interview with the Executive Committee of the Medical Board of the City Hospital. They also asked for a detailed written statement, but intimated that in their belief there could be no mingling of White and Negro personel in Hospital or Nurses Home.

In May, 1940, Dr Wm. Gauch, at that time President of the Medical Board of Newark City Hospital, sent a written response. In general the writer rather "passed the buck" to assorted sub-committees. The communication ended with the suggestion that the city should take over the Community Hospital, enlarge it, and establish a Jim-Crow section there of the City Hospital, manned by Negro personel. (This response was quoted extensively in a statement made to the Newark City Commission in May, 1942.

During the next year the Interracial Council was much occupied with

other matters, but an appeal was sent to a large list of organizations and individuals asking for their endorsement of the cause -i.e, opening the doors of the city Hospital to Negro professionals. (Should be included in records given to Director Brady following May 1942 Commission Meeting.

In May 1942 the Council took its concern to the City Commission of Newark, acting with the idea that the Commissioner in Charge of Public Health, Mr. Brady, was legally responsible for Hospital policy, and that the Civil Rights Laws of N.J. (Chapter 247, Laws of 1935)were definitely being broken. A copy of these laws - or rather a summary - was filed.

During the summer a search was made by the Newark Law Department, and after much pressure, admission was made that our stand was correct as to the law. This admission was made orally by Mr. Brady to two of our members who are ready to testify that it was so made in their presence. Mr. Brady meanwhile, was reluctant to put pressure on the City Hospital Medical Board to submit the name or names of any Negroes for appointment to the staff. Since the Medical Board presumably knows better than the director what sort of doctors would make good staff members, it has long been the policy for the Medical Board to submit names of candidates for appointment by the director. This is a laudible way of keeping politics separate from the running of the hospital, but it is the Council's claim that, as the Medical Board of the City Hospital refuses to act in a democratic manner, Mr. Brady could and should insist that the names of Negroes be included in the nominations sent to him.

In April 1945, another meeting was arranged between the Interracial Council's Hospital Committee and the Executive Committee of the Medical Board of the City Hospital. The only outcome of this meeting was that the Council was definitely given to understand that prejudice was at the back of the non-appointment and that the Medical Board had no idea of giving up this prejudice. At the same time the suggestion was made that Negro doctors should make application for positions on the staff and that Negro girls should apply for training as nurses.

Negro doctors have been extremely, and understandably, reluctant to apply for staff positions in-as-much as it is known that white physicians only make such application on invitation of the Medical Board of the City Hospital. No Negro doctors have so far received such an invitation although it is known that - as of the summer of 1944, the Hospital was badly in need of professional services. See public statement of Mr. Brady printed in newspapers)

Also in the summer of 1944 a group of Negro doctors did write to Mr. Brady, offering their services to their city through work in the City Hospital if properly appointed to the staff. They have received no answer, either from Mr. Brady or from the hospital. This was brought to the attention of Attorney General Van Riper, in the hope that through his office an investigation would be made. It happens that in the case of nurses, Negro girls have almost universally preferred to apply for training in other hospitals, thus avoiding unpleasantness.

COPY

May 6th, 1942.

STATEMENT OF NEWARK INTERRACIAL COUNCIL REGARDING NEGRO PROFESSIONALS IN THE NEWARK CITY HOSPITAL.

For several years the Newark Interracial Council has been trying to remove the barrier which stands against Negroes in professional capacities in the Newark City Hospital. A tax supported institution in a city in which about one tenth of the population is Negro, it has not had a Negro physician on its staff and it does not open its doors to Negro interns or nurses.

A survey of other communities has shown the Council that the appointment of Negro physicians to the staffs of public hospitals is a common practice, carried on successfully in many cities where the population is comparable to Newark's. Statistics on this subject were placed in the hands of your Commissioner of Public Affairs shortly after the election last year. They have also been brought repeatedly to the attention of the Chief of Staff, Staff Members, and the Executive Committee of the Medical Board of the City Hospital.

Following an interview with the Executive Committee of the Medical Board of the City Hospital, the Council received a communication which indicated as follows:-

1. To the request for placement of one or more qualified Negro physicians on the staff, the answer indicated:
   (1) election rested with the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff;
   (2) who, when vacancy occurs,
      (a) select two applicants from among persons who have served on the Associate staff.
      (b) These two applicants are recommended to the Medical Board, and if endorsed by them, to the Director of Public Affairs who selects one of the two.
      (c) The appointment of Associates or Assistants is made at the wish of heads of service, who recommend such candidates for appointment to the Executive Committee.
2. Regarding the acceptance of qualified Negro Internes, it was stated that all such applications are selected by the Staff Interne Committee after examination of the applicant.
3. Regarding the acceptance of colored applicants for nurses training, again the writer indicated that a subcommittee is responsible for selection of applicants.

This communication ended with the following suggestion;-

"The Executive Board and the Medical Board are in sympathy with the furnishing of Negro Physicians who want such training (i.e. the scientific advantages of hospital facilities) with facilities to obtain it. Therefore, the whole medical staff will give your committee or any other Negro group all assistance in petitioning the City of Newark to take over the(a) Community Hospital; (b) enlarge it; (c) establish a Training School for Negro Nurses, and to place it under the administrative management of the Newark City Hospital."

For the Council to have cooperated in such a scheme would have been to deliberately advocate the establishment of the Jim Crow system in Newark, an entering wedge and precedent for its further extension. To advocate such an undemocratic procedure was unthinkable for the Council. We are now bringing our problems to you, the Commissioners of the City of Newark.

The following is quoted from the Summary of the Civil Rights Laws of New Jersey, Chapter 247, Laws of 1935.

"Persons are entitled to equal rights and privileges subject to conditions established by law.

1. All persons within the jurisdiction of the State of New Jersey shall be entitled to full and equal accomodations, advantages, facilities and privileges in all public places including resort and amusement places, excepting where such places are limited by a law which applies to everyone.

No person, owner or otherwise, of any such place, shall directly or indirectly refuse any person facilities or privileges of such place; nor directly or indirectly publish, circulate or display any written or printed statement refusing such facilities to anyone on account of race, creed or color; or stating that the patronage of anyone belonging to any particular race, creed or color is not desired."

Under the list of places which are included in the meaning of the act, are found

"(f) All public hospitals and clinics."

The law then lists fines and penelties for violation thereof.

The Council believes the Civil Rights Laws of New Jersey are being violated, at least in spirit, in the case of the Newark City Hospital.

The Council has been told that the Executive Committee of the Medical Board of the City Hospital appoints qualified physicians to the staff of the hospital and that these appointments are verified by the Director of Public Affairs. In a slightly conflicting statement, we have been told that the Medical Board "nominates condidates for staff membership and that the Director makes the appointments." Either would be a democratic procedure, comparable to the appointment of members to the Supreme Court by the President of the United States. In that case the appointments are verified by Congress. The one department of government acts as a check on the other. However, if the Executive Committee of the Medical Board of the City Hospital appoints members to the staff from which the Board itself is chosen, and neither the Commissioner nor any other public official can veto these appointments or make suggestions in regard to policy in the making of appointments, it may, as the phrase is "remove the City Hospital from politics". But it makes of the Medical Board a self perpetuating dynasty ruling a city, tax supported institution, and we submit that this is not democracy.

On the question of nurses and interns - official notes from Federal, State and Municipal government agencies constantly decry the shortage of man-power and woman-power needed to protect the health of the nation. Newark City Hospital is extending its facilities to meet the growing demand for trained nurses. A scarcity of interns is making it necessary for nurses to assume some of their duties. We feel that those who govern the policy of Newark City Hospital show great inconsistency in continuing to ignore the available Negro candidates for such positions.

It is a proved fact that such abuses of the democratic principle give ammunition to the enemies of our country and stir up race hatred which is grist for the fifth column mill. We must prove to the Negro citizens of Newark that in this city they can count on the democratic principle to

stop this denial of their just rights and privileges.

We therefore urge you to insist that the Medical Board name one or more qualified Negro physicians in the next staff list to be submitted for verification, and that the ban against Negro Interns and Nurses be removed.

For the Interracial Council of Newark,

Lucy K. Milburn,
President.

SUMMARY
of
Civil Rights Laws of New Jersey
Chapter 247, Laws of 1935

Persons are entitled to equal rights and privileges subject to conditions established by law.

1. All persons within the jurisdiction of the State of New Jersey shall be entitled to full and equal accomodations, advantages, facilities and privileges in all public places including resort and amusement places, excepting where such places are limited by a law which applies to everyone.

No person, owner or otherwise, of any such place, shall directly or indirectly refuse any person facilities or privileges of such place; nor directly or indirectly publish, circulate or display any written or printed statement refusing such facilities to anyone on account of race, creed or color; or stating that the patronage of anyone belonging to any particular race, creed or color is not desired.

Following is a list of places which are included in the meaning of the Act:

(a) Inns, taverns, roadhouses or hotels, either for the accomodation of transients or of those seeking health, recreation or rest;
(b) Restaurants, eating houses or any places where food is sold for consumption on the premises;
(c) Any place maintained for the sale of ice cream, sodawater or confections or other beverages retailed for consumption on the premises
(d) Garages, and all public conveyances on land and water, as well as stations and terminals thereof. All public bath houses and seashore accomodations, including public boardwalks.
(e) All places of public amusement including theatres, motion picture houses, airdromes, music halls, roof gardens, skating rinks, amusement and recreation parks, fairs, bowling alleys, gymnasiums;
(f) All public hospitals and clinics;
(g) All public libraries and educational institutions including Kindergarten, primary and secondary school, academy, college and university unity under supervision of the regents of the State of New Jersey.

The law does not include any institution, club or place of accomodation which is distinctly private in its nature.

2. Any person who violates any of the provisions of Section 1, except for reasons which apply alike to all citizens of every race, creed and color shall pay the sum of not less than $100 nor more than $500 for each and every violation thereof to the State of New Jersey to be recovered in an action of debt with full costs; and shall also for every such violation be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than $500 or imprisonment of not more than ninety days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The aggrieved party or parties in any such action is authorized to institute action in the name of the State of New Jersey and in case judgment is awarded to him he shall be paid the costs incurred in prosecuting such action out of the judgment and also attorney's fees of not less than $20.00 and more than $100. to be determined and fixed by the judge of the court where action is brought.

Following is a list of organizations which have endorsed this cause:-

The Contemporary of Newark
Essex County Civic Club
Essex County Federation of Teachers
Board of Trustees, Young Women's Christian Association
Staff Members, Young Women's Christian Association
Board of Directors, Newark Section, National Council of Jewish Women
(as a Board and also as individuals)
Greater Newark Industrial Union Council
Housing Authority of the City of Newark (1941)- as a group & as individuals;
Kilburn Memorial Presbyterian Missionary Society
Labor's Non-Partisan League of Essex County
Labor's Non-Partisan League of New Jersey
The Lit-Muse Club (member N.J.Federation of Colored Women's Clubs)
Mary McLeod Bethune Club
Newark Physicians Association
New Jersey Good will Commission
New Jersey Civil Liberties Union
North Jersey Medical Society
North Jersey Branch, Nat'l Association of College Women
Newark Citizens Committee
Phillips Wheatley Literary Club
Young Professional Mens League
Social Service Committee, Episcopal Diocese of Newark

The following individuals have endorsed this cause in writing -

Rev. John H Keene, 272 Roseville Ave., Rector St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Dr. A. Wolfson, Pres. Associated Jewish Charities
Ida S.G.Segal- Executive Director Jewish Social Service, 682 High St
(letter accompanied by petition with several other signatures)
Archie H Ormond 810 Broad St
Rev. James Moffett, Old 1st. Church;formerly in charge Young Peoples'
Dr.Wm.H.Foulks Former pastor Old First Church (activities.
Lucille F.Miller,M.D. 31 Webster Place, Orange
Rev. Arthur Lucas 299 High St.,also connected with Old First Church
Andrew C.Drury,D.D.S. -60 Branford Place, Newark
Mary E. Jones,Principal Girls Trade School
George C. Pfaus, Labor Representative,W.P.B.
Gale D. Webbe 933 S. 17th St
Dr.Samuel L.Hamilton- 240 Montclair Ave. Prof. Religious Ed., N.Y.U. and
Pres. Board Directors, Newark Library
Rabbi Joachim Prinz Congregation B'nai Abraham
Assemblyman Samuel Ferster
Edward Fuhlbrugge, Newark University
Rev.John B. Bann Trinity Congregational Church, East Orange
Simon Doniger Head Jewish Child Guidance Bureau
The Public Affairs Committee of Y.W.C.A. 53 Washington St. (collected a
large number of signatures among the general membership)
Emma Cohen 271 Leslie St. League of Women Shoppers
Reta L. Stein Council Jewish Women, 682 High St
Father William Kiernan, Social Service Bureau, Diocese of Newark

Lacking written endorsement, we feel certain (thru conversations) that we can count on the backing of Bishop Ludlow and Dean Lichtenberger of the Diocese of Newark, and of Judge Joseph Siegler, Father C.J. Ahera, formerly of Holy Angels Church, expressed his approbation in a newspaper statement some time ago.

C O P Y

April 25, 1943

Hon. John A Brady, Director,
Department of Public Affairs,
City Hall, Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:

On Tuesday, April 6th, members of the Hospital Committee of the Newark Interracial Council were informed through Mr. Harold Letts, that you had arranged for our meeting with the Executive Board of the Newark City Hospital.

This meeting was arranged following a talk between you and Mr. Lett, in which there had been an attempt to clarify both sides of prolonged discussions. It was felt that until you, the Interracial Council and the Executive Committee of the Medical Board could all three meet together, certain aspects of previous discussions would continue to be confused. The Council regrets that you were prevented from attending the meeting, which was held on Thursday, April 8th, at the Nurses Home, and hopes that you will give consideration to a letter which was sent by the Council to the Medical Board some days after the meeting. A copy of the letter is enclosed. To date, this letter has not be answered.

The Council wishes also to reiterate its suggestion that ratification of further appointments to the City Hospital Staff be withheld by you until this matter has been satisfactorily settled.

Sincerely yours,

President.

7

COPY

April 15, 1943

Dr James Lowrey, President,
Medical Board of Newark City Hospital
Newark, N.J.

Dear Sir:

The committee of the Newark Interracial Council which called on you on Thursday, April 8th, wishes to thank you for the time you gave to the consideration of our concern. We would like, however, to confirm the impressions and conclusions which came out of that meeting.

The Interracial Council understands:-

1) That Negro doctors are urged to apply to the Medical Board of the City Hospital for positions on the staff. Such applications should be in writing, should state qualifications, school from which graduation took place, any specialty in which there has been extra training and experience and in which there is special proficiency. Applications should include recommendations from at least two physicians, preferably but not necessarily members of the present City Hospital Staff. Membership in the County Medical Society is necessary but need not be of long standing These applications will be considered on an equal basis with applications from white physicians.

2) The statement was made that there was no immediate need for more doctors on the City Hospital staff. But of some 500 white doctors in Newark, approximately 200 are now on the staff, and there is a long waiting list of applicants. Consequently Negro doctors could not expect immediate action.

3) Appointees to the staff serve 6 months probation, another 6 months on a temporary basis and only after 5 years of service does an appointment become entirely permanent.

4) The appointment of Negro women to the nursing staff, or as nurses in training, or of Negro doctors as interns, will not be considered. This is due to simple prejudice on the part of other nurses and interns, who would fail to apply or would even resign should they be required to work with Negros. The Medical Board is convinced the existance of this prejudice means that the appointment of such nurses and interns would seriously disrupt the working of the hospital. The Board holds this conviction in spite of the fact that in many other cities such disruption has not followed the appointments of Negros.

5) Staff nurses and nurses for training are extremely hard to get at the present time. Should the experiment be made of accepting Negro Girls, the Medical Board is convinced the situation would be made much worse.

The Committee from the Interracial Council is of the opinion that this represents the general conclusions arrived at, and we shall conclude they are correct unless we hear from you to the contrary. In that case a specific correction from you will be welcome.

Sincerely yours

President.

8

COPY

Montefiore Hospital
for chronic diseases

Gun Hill Road, Near Jerome Ave

Telephone
Olinville 2-3800

New York, February 16, 1943

Mrs William M. Milwitsky
Chairman, Hospital Committee
Interracial Council of Newark
48 North Tenth Street
Newark, N.J.

My dear Mrs. Milwitsky:

Replying to your letter of February 12th, we have 30 colored graduate nurses on our staff, or 50% of the total. We also have 5 colored female attendants, representing 8% of the total in this classification. I might add that, almost without exception, these nurses are rendering excellent service. They are exceedingly well liked by our visiting staff, house staff and, particularly, by our patients. We have no trouble placing them in our Nurses' Home and in the nurses' dining room, since they are of a type that appear to be readily acceptable to the white girls who work in our Hospital.

We have no school of nursing. As to the Negro physicians on our staff, we had one, Dr. Vera Joseph, who was assistant resident physician on our Medical Division several years ago. She was exceptionally good. At the present time we have one colored surgeon, Dr. James L. Wilson, who enjoys courtesy privileges in our private pavilion. He is highly respected by our Medical Board.

So far as I am aware, no white patient in this Hospital ever complained about Dr. Joseph because of her color.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

E. M. BLUESTONE, M.D.
Director.

Schools of Nursing, Admitting Negro and White Students.

Boston City Hospital	Boston Mass	Margaret Busshe R.N.
Buffalo City Hospital	Buffalo, N.Y.	Ruth Schlagenhauf R.N.
Cambridge City Hospital	Cambridge, Mass	Gertrude Stapleton R.N.
Cleveland City Hospital	Cleveland, Ohio	Estelle, Koch, R.N.
Grassland Hospital	Valhalla, N. Y.	Annie E. Grass, R.N
Indianapolis City Hospital	Indianapolis, Minn	Beatrice Gerris
Jersey City Medical Center	Jersey City, N.J.	Jessie Murdoch, R.N.
Los Angeles County, General	Los Angeles, Calif	Elizabeth Brown, R.N
University of Minnesota Hosp.	Minneapolis, Minn	Katherine Densford, R.N.
Yale University Hospital	New Haven, Conn	Effie Taylor, R.N
Bellevue Hospital	NewaYork N.Y.	Blanche Edwards, R.N
Kings County Hospital	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Anne Johnson
Cumberland Hospital	Brooklyn N.Y.	Ella Glendinny
Fordham Hospital	Bronx, N. Y.	Elsie Palmer

INTERRACIAL COUNCIL OF NEWARK, N.J.

NEGRO PROFESSIONALS IN HOSPITAL SERVICE

This is an old list, dating back some years. There may be changes now. (X indicates Negro serving or having served as part of regular hospital and /or clinical staff)

- - - - - -

	Staff-Clinic Physicians	Interns	Nurses (Staff-Train)
Chicago, Ill.			
Childrens' Memorial	X		
Billings Hospital & Clinic	X		
Sanitarium*	X		X
Cook County, Ill*	X	X	X
Cleveland, Ohio	X	X	X
Detroit, Mich			
Receiving Hospital*	X	X	X
Herman Kiefer Hospital	X	X	
Eloise, Mich, County Hosp		X	
Huntington, L.I.	X		
Houston, Tex			
New York City			
Bellevue Hospital			X
Brooklyn Medical	X		
Harlem Hospital	X	X	X
Lincoln Hospital			X
Presbyterian	X		
Seaview (1943 - 50% white, 50% Negro)	X		
** Other City Hospitals	X	X	X
Jersey City, N. J.	X	X	X
Union County Sanitarium	X		X
Orange, N.J.	X		
Hackensack, N.J.	X		
Middlesex Co., N.J.	X		

(* - Staffed through Civil Service Regulations)
(**- Triborough now about 50% each white and colored)

- - - - - - - - -

C O M M E N T S

Chicago, Ill.

In the Childrens' Memorial Hospital in Chicago there are at least two Negroes who are on the staff of the out-patient department and bring their own cases into the hospital itself. A Dr. Carlosa who was a former resident physician in this department is now head of the pediatric department of Howard University.

At the University of Chicago, Billings Hospital and Billings Clinic have a number of Negro doctors working in various capacities. A Dr. Jones is a salaried physician in charge of all of the eye work in the

student health service of the University of Chicago. He is also assistant in the general eye clinic of Billings Hospital, which is a pay clinic, the patients coming from higher income groups.

A Dr. Johnson, who is now professor of physiology at Howard University, had a very interesting opportunity at Billings Clinic and Hospital, through the interest of the white director of clinics and hospital administrator, Dr. Franklin C. McLean. A number of years ago Dr. McLean decided to test out the patient reaction to a Negro Physician. He placed Dr. Johnson who is a dark-skinned Negro in every department of the hospital, asking him to keep careful notes of all reactions to him. At the end of the period Dr. Johnson had no adverse material to report.

Cook County Hospital:

Their services have been satisfactory and have caused no disruption to the orderly routine of the hospital. There has been no lowering of any of the medical standards regardless of who constitutes the intern staff. We have felt that giving these young men adequate training would be a definite help in the care of the negro (sic) population of our city.

Very sincerely yours,
(signed) Karl A. Meyer, D.D.
Medical Superintendent."

Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium, Chicago:

"In answer I would say that at the present time we have sixteen Negro nurses on our staff and two Negro physicians, * * * * Our personnel is on a Civil Service basis and the examinations are open to all, irrespective of race.

Very truly Yours,
(Signed) Frederick Tice
President, Board of Directors."

Cleveland.

(Population: 27% Native wh; 39% N.W. of f.b. parentage; 26% fore foreign born; 8% Negro - Comparable to Newark population distribution)

City Hospital:

"* * *) There is no substantial evidence that the standards of service at the hospital have been adversely affected by the addition of these colored persons to the personnel of the hospital. At one time the Chief Physican was a Colored man. He was competent and conscientious and made a good record,*** It is quite difficult to estimate the effect in the community of the selection of these Colored men and women to serve at city hospital. It can, however, be said that the effect has been beneficial, and has tended to create a large measure of good will and respect for our Colored citizens. Cleveland is more tolerant and more co-operative because of the record of city service made by the men and women who have rendered professional services to persons who have cause to be at City Hospital.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Paul Brokaw
Acting Executive Assistant to the Mayor."

Houston, Texas:

A greater recognation is being given to Negro physicians, even in the South, where Dr. Bousfield (Negro representative on Rosenwald Foundation Staff) told me in Houston, Texas, a Negro physician is a recognized member of the staff. He served only Negros, but in that Southern set-up it is an advanced step for him to have staff status.